

Mental Health Transformation Project

Partnerships for Recovery and Resiliency



TRANSFORMATION NEWS

MARCH 10, 2006

SUBCOMMITTEE AND RSN LISTENING SESSIONS

Regional Support Networks statewide are busy conducting listening session with their communities to provide feedback to Transformation. The Project is using the same four questions that constitute the survey to gather information about what works, what doesn't work and what a better system would look like for mental health consumers. Each RSN is approaching the task in a manner most suited to their community. Some very inventive methods have emerged: using existing consumer groups; setting up open public meetings for direct dialogue; and, passing out self-addressed stamped envelopes so community members can return the survey questions directly to the Project.

Seven Subcommittees to the Transformation Work Group will conclude their work by March 31st in preparation for an all-day meeting on April 7. The full day will be a working session for all committee members to finalize and prioritize their findings. They will review and analyze feedback from all Subcommittee meetings, as well as input from state agencies, providers and the community. A contract with the UW assures that the massive amount of input received from across the state could be synthesized and examined for themes. The meeting will give the committees an opportunity to hear what the other Sub-Committees heard, hear community input from the RSN "listening sessions", and examine input from state agencies, providers and other stakeholders. The product from the April 7 meeting: a list of priority outcomes to be forwarded to the Transformation Work Group for their meeting, April 21 in Yakima.

RSN Listening Sessions and Subcommittee Schedule:

Yakima: March 10, Subcommittee on Homelessness: Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health facility, 402 S. 4th Ave., public testimony, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Wenatchee: March 13, Subcommittee on Children/Youth & Parents/Families: Wenatchee Valley Medical Center Sleep Center, 1000 North Miller St., Wenatchee, public input time TBD.

Yakima: March 13, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Juveniles and Adults: Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health, 402 S. 4th Ave., public input 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Centralia: March 14, Listening Session on Mental Health Issues: Cascade Mental Health Care, Reynolds Campus, 2428 Reynolds Avenue, Centralia, public testimony 5 p.m.

Mount Vernon: March 14, Listening Session on Mental Health Issues; First United Methodist Church (main entrance), 1607 E. Division, Mount Vernon, public input from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Aberdeen: March 14, Listening Session on Mental Health Issues: Grays Harbor County Public Health Department, 2109 Sumner Ave., Aberdeen, public testimony, 10:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Cathlamet: March 15, Listening Session on Mental Health Issues: Wahkiakum Mental Health Services, River Street Building, public testimony, 6 p.m.

Moses Lake: March 16, Subcommittee on Co-Occurring Disorders (Dual Diagnoses): Big Bend Community College Center for Business and Industry 7662 Chanute Street NE Moses Lake, public input from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Vancouver: March 21, Subcommittee on Adult Consumers and Families: Clark County YWCA, 3609 Main St., Vancouver, public input from 10 a.m. to noon.

Vancouver, March 22, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice - Juveniles and Adults: Clark County Center for Community Health, 1601 E. Fourth Plain Blvd., main floor conference room, public input from 1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING & ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANSWERS QUESTIONS

The Mental Health Planning and Advisory Committee will meet March 15 to offer their response to the survey questions. The MHPAC is designed to advise the Mental Health Division and is supported by the SAMHSA block grant. The Subcommittee structure of MHPAC was instrumental in providing nominees to the Transformation Subcommittees, but a formal response from MHPAC will be produced in time for the April 7 all Subcommittee meeting.

NEW STAFF

The Mental Health Transformation Project is pleased to announce the appointment of five new staff: Angela French, IT Coordinator; Stephanie Lane and Joyce Layne-Jordan as Program Managers; and, Jill SanJule and Jeanette Barnes as Consumer Liaisons.



TRANSFORMATION STAFF TEAM

MH Transformation Project Staff

Front Row, left to right: Ginger Stewart, Erin Peterschick, Darci Ebinger, Jill SanJule, Angela French
Back Row: David Brenna, Stephanie Lane, Ken Stark, Joyce Layne-Jordan, Ron Jemelka
(Not pictured: Jeanette Barnes)

STAFF PROFILE: JILL SANJULE

A native of Washington, Jill San Jule comes to us after spending the past decade working on transforming the mental health system in Arizona. While in Arizona, Jill played an integral role in establishing consumer run mental health services as viable and legitimate supplements to more traditional systems of care. Prior to her involvement in the consumer movement, she was employed by the University of Arizona for several years, where she worked on a number of federally funded grants involving individuals with mental health and substance abuse disorders.

In addition to her vast professional experience in the field of mental health, Jill brings her personal story of recovery, having been diagnosed with clinical depression at the age of 17. In addition to being a survivor of mental illness, Jill has overcome alcohol and drug addiction, homelessness, sexual assault, and the loss associated with dropping out of Whitman College where she had received academic and tennis scholarships. Jill spent several years traveling across the country sharing her story and was eventually nicknamed the “inspirer of hope” by her colleagues. We are fortunate to have Jill on our staff team. She will serve in a number of important roles, including helping to organize consumers into a viable voice as Transformation addresses the goals of a consumer-driven system of hope and recovery.

RESEARCH UPDATE

The Evaluation Work Group for the Washington State Mental Health Transformation Grant has met several times to initiate and implement evaluation of the Mental Health Transformation Project. This group consists of the evaluation contract partners (UW, WSU, UNC-Chappell Hill, DSHS Research and Data Analysis and the Research team from the Mental Health Division), and members of the Family and Consumer Evaluation Team (FACET). This small team will advise and participate with the four evaluation partners in the development of the evaluation plan and its implementation.

During the next few months, the Evaluation Partners will be:

- Surveying providers, consumers, professional groups and others about priorities for transformation;
- Developing the FACET team;
- Conducting Resource Inventory and Needs Assessment interviews with directors of state agencies and RSN's, and conducting “drill-down” interviews with their staffs;
- Conducting 1,000 phone surveys with consumers and family members about transformation needs and pilot testing a recovery instrument with Washington State consumers;
- Conducting face-to-face interviews of consumers and family members about a vision for a transformed mental health system;
- Developing the administrative databases to permit broad assessment of transformation and other mental health initiatives in the coming years.

If you would like more information about the activities of the Family and Consumer Evaluation Team, please contact Eric Bruns at the University of Washington, at 206-685-2085 or ebruns@u.washington.edu. If you have questions regarding the Transformation Evaluation, please contact Ron Jemelka at jemelrp@dshs.wa.gov.